

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
1334 29th Street, N.W.
Washington (Georgetown)
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-242

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Location: 1334 29th Street, N.W., (Georgetown), west side of 29th Street (formerly Greene Street) about 61 feet north of Dumbarton Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

Present Use: Methodist Church

Statement of Significance: This simple brick building with Gothic Revival details is typical of a number of Negro churches built in Georgetown during the latter half of the nineteenth century. It houses one of the oldest Negro congregations in the District of Columbia. (An earlier structure, built before 1830 and used by the congregation until 1880, was known as a station of the underground railroad around the time of the Civil War.)

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The present structure was begun in 1876 and dedicated July 6, 1884.
2. Architect: None.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1241 lot 836. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the property. The references are to the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C.

The property now owned by Mt. Zion Church was originally described in three parcels of land, gradually accumulated in small parcels over a number of years. The church proper is located on the third parcel, lot 836 (formerly 822 of 125 and 126). The main body of land was transferred as follows:

1875 Deed July 13, 1875, recorded December 21, 1875 in Liber 800 folio 466
Alfred Pope et ux Hannah
to
Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church of Georgetown
Consideration: \$2,581.00
...said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed as a place of divine worship for the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

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4. Original plans and construction: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: The only changes to the church have been minor interior remodeling and a rear addition of 1904.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. History of the Church:

Early church records for the Georgetown Methodist Church indicate that in 1802 there were 111 Methodists in the city. A census conducted in 1820 and published in the 1822 City Directory gives this account of Georgetown's population:

	<u>White</u>	<u>Slave</u>	<u>Free Colored</u>
Male	2,475	710	375
Female	2,465	816	519
Total	4,940	1,526	894

The total population of Georgetown was then 7,360. The number of colored Methodist residents increased rapidly so that by 1825 there were 125 members of the Washington and Georgetown Station. Their place of worship was the Methodist Church located on Montgomery Street. This church was thirty by forty feet and was said to have been of "very ordinary finish." (Ferguson, p. 68.) The church is now the Dumbarton Avenue Methodist Church; the Montgomery Avenue Site is now occupied by the Corcoran School.

The Negro members of the church decided that they wanted to form a congregation of their own. Henry Foxall, a leader of the Methodist Church, sold them a lot, 35' x 50' on Mill Street (now 27th Street) above P Street. The deed for this transaction is recorded in Liber AH 33 folio 10, dated June 3, 1814. The group, known as the Colored Members of the Georgetown Station, erected a brick structure known as both "The Ark" and "The Meeting House."

This structure is listed in the 1830 City Directory as follows: "The African Church is a small brick building on Mill Street; the society are Methodists and have a minister of their own selection."

Until 1864 pastors from the Dumbarton Avenue Church served this congregation. This practice caused some dissatisfaction among many members who subsequently withdrew and formed their own churches with black ministers. Mt. Zion Church, as it was named in 1844, did not have a Negro minister until the Reverend John Brice was appointed in 1864. Membership in 1844 is recorded at 549.

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The Church was remodeled in 1856, causing a debt of eleven hundred dollars. This remodeling did not, however, prove adequate for so large a membership, and in 1875 the decision was made to erect a new building. The church had \$2,560 invested in the Freedman's Savings Bank. This bank failed, and the church received only \$486. Discouraged, they made an effort to raise funds and managed to collect \$624 in one day, a good start toward the building fund.

The church minutes of March 24, 1875, record the following resolution: "Whereas, we see and know that our present place of worship is not a suitable locality to build a new church edifice; therefore, Resolved, that we will leave this place and purchase another."

The present site of the church was purchased from Alfred Pope in July 1875 for the amount of \$2,581.00. The cornerstone was laid in July, 1876, and was relaid on May 10, 1880. On July 12, 1880, the Mill Street structure burned to the ground. The congregation was offered the facilities of the Samaritan Hall in the 1500 block of 26th Street, where they worshipped until they could move into the new building.

There was a great deal of dissension among the members at the time of the building. Another group of the members split off and formed the AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church at 26th and P Streets in Georgetown. Apparently the membership was not greatly diminished by the split, for the records of 1884 show a total of 629 members.

The first services were held in the lecture room (the lower level) of the new building on October 31, 1880, although the building was without a roof and without plaster. By 1882 the lecture room was completed. Galleries were put in the church in 1883, and the church was wainscoted, plastered, and frescoed. Windows and a furnace were also installed. Pews, pulpit, and altar were in place by 1884, and the building was dedicated on July 6 of that year.

The site of the former church on Mill Street was sold in 1892 for \$2,800. In 1894 new windows and carpeting were put in the church. The members also purchased a lot on O Street near 29th and built a parsonage (now 2902 O Street).

Although most of the 385 members of Mt. Zion Church no longer live in the Georgetown area, the congregation feels a strong attachment to the Georgetown community and has elected that its place of worship remain in the present location.

2. Church Records:

The white ministers of the church began a practice of keeping membership records as early as 1830. The subsequent black

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ministers followed this procedure so that there are now extensive records about early members and events of the church.

The first volume of records, A Register of the Colored Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgetown Station, covers the period of 1830-1850. Lists of members' names are recorded with remarks mostly relevant to their attendance at church meetings. Many of the names are followed by remarks such as "gone away," "taken away," "cannot be found," "lost," "sold to the South," "sold and gone," or simply "sold." After one name the remark is "sold, poor fellow." Other members were "expelled for immorality" and "expelled for adultery." A September 5, 1848, listing for F. N. Brown reports that he went to Liberia.

The second volume of these records covers the period of 1850 to 1868. Church membership declined from 469 in 1851 to 331 in 1858. There were more frequent remarks of "gone home," "sold off," or "escaped" than in the previous volume.

Although it is never mentioned in church records, it is believed that the church was used as a station in the underground railroad. The former church historian, Miss Martha Henderson, reported to the Washington Afro-American, November 6, 1948, "...if the money the church paid to buy persons from those who would have taken them as slaves and the many other protections the church afforded could be interpreted as proof that it was used as an underground railroad, then the statement is true."

An article in the Pittsburgh Courier, July 24, 1948, offers explanation for the remarks after the members' names. "'Gone away' meant that the individual had been sent by the Underground Railroad to Harpers Ferry and then to Canada to escape from slavery; 'taken away' meant one had come into the hands of patrollers; 'lost' indicated a mysterious and often tragic disappearance."

The minutes of the first quarterly conference of 1857 report:

...it was agreed to allow the pastor in all not more than \$700.00 of this \$216.00 for quarterage, 150.00 for house rent leaving 334.00 for table expenses rather a small allowance the Pastor thinks in view of the high prices of food provisions.

James D. S. Hall was appointed pastor to the church at the time the congregation was having dissension over building.

His entry of March 11, 1881 (with his own spelling), gives us some information on the construction of the building:

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I met the first official meeting, March 15, 1880 after an earnest effort to convince the brethren, that it would cost only one half as much, if they would buy their own materials and have the work done, on labor contract only.

Finally they got the idea, and went to work, 6th July 1880, the Church edifice, 50 by 75, 18 inch walls to the level of building, basement ceiling, 12 feet, main audience ceiling 23 feet, All the cost of material and work, six thousand one hundred dollars, \$6,100.00.

My estimate is, the interiors can be completed for an amount ranging inside of three thousand dollars \$3,000.00. It is said by many, that the Church is only half done, if this be so, it will yet cost about six thousand dollars \$6,000.00....

The preacher in 1882, Thomas W. Boothe, wrote:

We have sealed the 'basement' of the church, paved the alleys and are now at work on the galleries: the Church when completed will cost about \$16,000.00; between \$12,000 and \$13,000 have be paid up to date.

Alexander Dennis, preacher, wrote in 1883:

The church was not finished at the time. We put in the galleries, wainscoted, lathed and plastered and frescoed the ceiling nicely and put in the fernices and windows and also the Gas fixtures. We paid on improvements \$2048.00....

[The frescoes have since been painted out.]

In 1884 Dennis entered the following report:

We succeeded and put in our Pews at the cost of \$1300. dollars and paid for them and also a beautiful Pulpit at the cost of \$50. The altar was very beautifully carpeted and every thing in perfect order by the 15 day of July 1884 on which day the church was Dedicated.

3. Pastors of the Church:

1830	Robert S. Vinton
1842	Philip Hansburg
1844	Thomas Roszel
1845	William Taylor

1848	John Landstreet
1854	Thomas McGee
1857	John W. Hoover
1859	William Grandon
1861	J. H. Ryland
1862	Charles Lambeth
1864	John H. Brice (first Negro Minister)
1866	Nathaniel M. Carroll
1869	Henry R. Elbert
1871	George T. Pinkney
1873	George Lewis
1874	Benjamin Brown
1877	Richard A. Reed
1878	James Dansbury
1880	J. D. S. Hall
1881	Tilghman Adams
1882	T. W. Boothe
1883	Alexander Dennis
1886	Daniel Collines
1887	R. H. Robinson
1889	T. O. Carroll
1892	Henry A. Carroll
1895	S. A. Lewis
1896	E. W. Peck
1900	W. H. Hays
1913	W. C. Thompson
1916	D. D. Turpeau
1920	A. J. Mitchell
1922	C. Y. Trigg
1925	B. Y. Perkins
1928	J. S. Carroll
1932	J. D. Brown
1935	G. E. Curry
1937	A. H. Whitfield
1941	E. A. Haynes
1946	J. H. Johnson
1948	D. D. Foy
1954	C. B. LaGrange
1956	E. D. McGowan
1966	Calvin P. Crossman
1969	Lon H. Chesnutt

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C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: None found.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

A Register of the Colored Members of the Methodist
Episcopal Church in Georgetown Station, Vol. I
(1830-1850), Vol. II (1850-1868).

Church Minutes, March 24, 1875.

District of Columbia Deed Books, Recorder of Deeds,
Washington, D. C.

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b. Secondary and published sources:

Ferguson, Reverend W. M., D.D. "Early Methodist in
the District of Columbia." Records of the
Columbia Historical Society, Vol. VIII. Washing-
ton, D. C., 1905.

Pittsburgh Courier, July 24, 1948.

Washington Afro-American, November 6, 1948.

Washington Directory. Washington, D. C., 1830.

Prepared by Ellen J. Schwartz
Architectural Historian
Commission of Fine Arts
August 1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple brick building with its Gothic Revival details is typical of a number of modest Negro churches built in Georgetown during the latter half of the nineteenth century.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good. The building is well maintained inside and out, although there is minor deterioration of some of the windows. A rear addition, constructed in 1904, includes robing rooms and a choir loft on the sanctuary level, and a kitchen, stairways, and minister's study on the basement level. Plans are now being made for a major redecoration of the church.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This rectangular building is about 50' wide by 75' deep, with a rear addition of about 15'. The three-bay facade consists of two projecting end "towers" and a central portion which contains the main doorway and windows. The church is two stories tall; the western addition does not extend the full height of the rear elevation.
2. Foundations: On the east the foundation is composed of red sandstone ashlar 14- $\frac{1}{2}$ " high with a sloping inner edge, and

a smooth border; the rest is hammer-faced. This rests on a cement-covered stone foundation, exposed 18" at the south end of the facade, but not visible at the north end. At the sides of the building the foundation is exposed bluestone in rough-laid courses, about 4' high at the northwest corner, and about 1' high at the northeast corner. The foundation extends out about 6" beyond the face of the brick wall. In the furnace room--under the 1904 addition--the old west wall of the church is exposed. Its top is bluestone, rising to a height of 6-1/2'. The foundation walls of the west addition are brick, with header courses (visible inside) every six courses.

3. Wall construction: The facade, originally smooth-faced brick 2-1/4" thick, has been sandblasted and carefully repointed. It is laid in common bond without header courses. There is a brick string course at the level of the main window sills, and a string course at the spring level of the tower windows. This course is of vertical bricks set at 45°. On the sides the walls are red brick (2" thick) laid in common bond with headers every seven rows; this, too, has been repointed. Spaced between the windows are buttress-pilaster strips, most of which are 21-1/2" wide. Beyond the east corner tower there are seven pilasters per side, including the west corner. Tie rod plates are also visible. At the level of the sanctuary balcony are four 8-pointed tie-rod stars; and at the level of the sanctuary floor, three 5-pointed stars.

Some stone is also evident. Red sandstone is used for the window sills, the keystones, and import blocks. At the northwest corner of the facade, a limestone cornerstone is inscribed "1816-1880".

4. Framing: The load-bearing walls are brick; the framing is presumed to be wooden.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: At the front door there is a modern brick stoop consisting of two steps about 9' long. Two areaways about 2-1/2' x 6' flank the steps. At the north side of the west addition is an areaway with eight bluestone steps down to the furnace room.
6. Chimneys: One modern brick chimney is visible at the rear center of the west addition. It is square with a cement cap and a projecting terra cotta flue. A second, older brick chimney is located at the northwest corner of the church, against the west wall; it is very plain and only eight courses high.
7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway is 68-1/2" wide,

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and contains a modern double door. Each leaf has three panels. The jambs and soffit, however, are old and treated with molded panels, three at each side and two above. The doorway is framed by pilaster strips and a pointed arch, 12-3/4" wide, and has stone plinth blocks, impost blocks, and keystone. Above the door, in the tympanum, is a two-light, colored glass window of small leaded squares. At each end of the west addition there is a modern five-panel door. The upper three panels are glazed. A pointed enframingent encloses a single clear glass light over each door. The entrance to the furnace room contains a four-panel wooden door which appears to be old.

- b. Windows and shutters: On the first, or entrance, level of the facade, each tower has three blind pointed arches with sandstone sills and keystones. In the center of the facade, the main door is flanked by two three-over-two light, double-hung, sash windows of leaded, colored glass. These windows have flat hood molds with sandstone keystones. At the second level of the facade, each side tower has one tall triple-sash colored glass window, with lights grouped three-over-two-over-two. In the center bay are two more lancet windows, flanking a large central window. The latter has a lower portion composed of two two-over-two light windows separated from each other by a wooden strip. Above them, a horizontal wooden member decorated with eight shallow pointed arches marks the balcony level inside the church. Above this is a fixed lancet of 16 panes, with a flat hood mold and sandstone keystone. In the gable apex of the facade is a small louvered ventilator opening with a painted enframingent and a sandstone sill.

On the sides of the church the basement level is lighted by seven six-over-six clear-glass sash windows with Tudor arches. All have stone sills, painted dark red. At the second, or sanctuary, level there are six triple-sash three-over-two-over-two light, colored glass windows. These sills, due to the deterioration of the stone, are generally covered with concrete. In the west addition there are two windows at the second-floor level. Each has one-over-one sash. The eastern one has clear glass and a Tudor arch; the western one has leaded, colored glass, somewhat narrower than the other, and a pointed arch. The side windows have molded wooden frames and flush brick voussoirs. The south side of the church was not completely accessible, but is apparently identical to the north side.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The east-west gable roof of the church

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is covered with rectangular gray slate. The western addition has a standing seam metal roof, painted red.

- b. Cornice, eaves: On the facade, the side towers form a parapet for the lower slope of the gable roof which is concealed behind them. The towers have a slight return on the north and south sides. There is a shallow brick entablature of corbeled brick; sheet metal flashing makes a flat cornice, which is painted white. A finial with two double volutes--apparently wrought iron--stands on the east gable end. On the sides, the space between the pilaster strips is corbeled out two courses at the top. At the eaves there is a single projecting course, and above it a metal gutter, with downspouts at each end of the side facades. The rear addition has a three-brick projection and a similar gutter.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The tower at each end of the front facade is simply a slight projection of each end bay, carried up and squared off above the slope of the gable roof.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The main sanctuary is a rectangular hall 60'-7" x 46'-6". A balcony, supported on columns, projects 11'-6" at the sides and 8' at the rear (east end), where it is convex. On the east end is a vestibule 10'-8" deep with stairs at the north and south ends to the balcony and to the entrance hall below. The choir, west of the sanctuary, is 16'-1" wide. On either side of the choir there is a robing room, each 12'-10" deep by 15'-3", north-south. At the outer corners of each robing room a narrow stair descends to the lower hall or "lecture room" in the basement of the building. The altar area in front of the choir extends at the north and south about 3' further than the choir area behind it.

The lecture room has been divided into several sections by partitions and folding curtains. The room is about 51' long by 48', and is divided into four east-west sections by three rows of cast-iron columns (three per row). The sections at the north and south are partitioned off and closed by folding screens to make three small classrooms on each side. These occupy the second, third, and most of the fourth (or westernmost) bay. At the back of the lecture room, in the first bay, against the east wall, a stairway descends to the lavatories under the entrance hall.

The entrance hall or lower vestibule, located four steps above the lecture room, measures 12'-9" x 9'-9". At its north and south ends there are stairs to the upper vestibule.

To the west, beneath the ascending stairs, doors open into small classrooms for children, each measuring about 10' x 11'. West of the lecture room--used also for Sunday School--partitioning which was installed around 1953 extends for the last dozen feet. To the north is a sick room and a hallway to the rear north-south hallway; in the center is the church office, a room about 26' x 12'; to the south is a small classroom about 11' wide and 12' deep. Beyond these three rooms, running north-south, is a 41-inch wide hallway running the entire width of the building, with doors to the outside at each end. From this hall there is access to the church office and the remaining stairs and rooms on this level. These are, from north to south, a narrow stairway to the robing room above the minister's study, a kitchen about 10' deep and about 27' long, a closet, and another stairway. The rooms to the west of the hallway, and the two robing rooms above them, are a later addition to the Church, made in 1904. The east wall of the hallway is 18" thick, with buttresses 6" thick along the lower portion.

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The attic space was not visited. There is a furnace room under the west end of the building, beneath the minister's study.

2. Stairways: The sanctuary is reached by two stairways, each a half turn with landing, having 8-1/2" risers and 5' long treads. There are twelve risers to the landing and four to the upper vestibule. The newel is heavy, turned wood, 3'-8" tall and 7-1/2" in diameter at the top. The handrail is molded. There are no balusters; 3-1/2" vertical boarding with a single bead is carried up as side paneling on the inner wall of each stair, and as a wainscoting 34" high on the outer wall. Much of this wood is grained; all of it is stained dark brown. On the landing, there is a square newel, with chamfered edges. The lecture room below the sanctuary is reached by four descending steps from the entrance vestibule. (The lower three steps are concrete.) The restrooms below the entrance vestibule are reached by a straight run of nine concrete steps against the east wall of the lecture room, with the descent toward the outside walls.

The stairs from the upper vestibule to the balcony are similar to the stairs from the first to second floor. The newel is somewhat smaller (3'-6" tall), but is similar in design. These stairs, too, have 8-1/2" risers, and 5" long treads. They are half turn with landing (run of eleven, then two) with a wainscoting similar to that of the first floor. On each landing one of the exterior windows is cut across, and the opening is guarded by a railing with seven turned balusters. (Similar railings

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and balusters are found across the window openings on the sides of the balconies.) The vertical grained boarding on the inner walls of the stairwell is 2-1/4"; that on the outer walls varies from 2-1/2" to 4-1/2".

3. Flooring: In the sanctuary the floors are 2-1/2" to 4-1/2" wide pine, stained dark brown. Except in the area of the pews, these floors are covered with red carpeting. The robing rooms have pine floors, covered with light brown linoleum. The choir area has floors of 2-1/4" hardwood. The front stairs are all covered in black linoleum, with rubber stair treads. The floors of the lower vestibule, the lecture room, and the side rooms are covered with plastic tile, most of it dark red and black. The floor beneath appears to be concrete. The balcony has pine floors, 2-1/2" to 4" wide, painted black.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The plaster walls of the sanctuary are painted a light yellow. Stained wooden wainscoting of 2-1/4" to 4" wide, single-bead vertical boarding covers the wall to a height of 3'-10". The molding at the top is 2-1/4" thick, painted black. The walls of the robing rooms also are plaster, painted light green. The entrance lobby walls are cream color; the plaster walls of the lecture room are light green, with a 4'-4" high wainscoting of single-bead vertical tongue and groove boarding, 2" to 4" wide. The wainscoting is painted brown and is without grain.

The ceiling of the sanctuary is essentially as originally installed. It is composed of pressed tin in 2'-square panels, with a deep cove around the edge, and is divided into six sections by 2' tin bands down the center and two cross bands. The border and the panels of the cross pieces are decorated with circles which are joined by short arms to the sides of a square. Each of these circles has a quatrefoil in the center. Floral decorations fill in the corner spaces. The six large sections are composed of Gothic tracery in a pointed quatrefoil pattern and have tracery border strips. (These two motifs are similar to those used on the ceiling of the First Baptist Church, 27th Street and Dumbarton Avenue, Georgetown.) The main sections are painted yellow. The cove border contains a rosette and circle motif. At the lower and upper edges of the cove section, and surrounding each of the six ceiling panels, is a raised molding which is painted blue. Below the cove, there is an egg and dart molding; above the cove, an egg and dart molding with embossed ovals; and by the ceiling, a curvilinear band. Other ceilings of the vestibule, and the underside of the balconies, are plaster, painted cream.

In the lecture room below, the ceilings are covered with acoustical tile. In the rear section, including the north-

south hall and the kitchen area, the ceiling is plaster over what appears to be shallow concrete or brick arches resting on iron beams, running east-west. These are about 6' on center. There are 10 arches across the rear of the church. Similar vaulting in unplastered concrete is found in the furnace room below the minister's study.

5. Doorways and doors: The doors into the lower lecture room are modern. The soffit and jambs, however, are old, and are decorated with two panels on each side, with molding edges above. The molding around the doorway is a simple 4" wide strip, with a central reeding. The doorway itself is 6' wide. Other doors on the lower level are modern and have 4 or 6 panels. The doors in the rear section have 5 panels. Some of the latter are on overhead rails, a modern adaptation. Door moldings are very simple.

At the west end of the lecture room, next to each of the outside walls, is a tall opening 50" wide and about 11' tall. It contains two, nine-light sash windows, 3'-7" tall, and a solid wooden panel, hung like the sash windows, below. The present doorway, next to each of these, was also at one time a triple-hung sash opening; the lower two panels have been removed and the upper one has been covered over on the east side by wall boarding. On the west side, however, the upper nine-light panel is still visible.

In the sanctuary, the entrance from the stairway to the vestibule is 4'-4" wide. This opening contains wood-grained double doors with two panels each. The upper panel is glass; the lower panel is covered with imitation leather. The doors into the two robing rooms are five-panel, wood-grained, and 3' wide. Five-panel, wood-grained doors open from the robing rooms into the choir; each has a one-light transom above. Two closet doors in the north room are also five-panel.

6. Decorative features and trim: The colored glass windows are one of the most decorative interior features. There are five tall windows on each side, extending up to the balcony area. Each leaded glass window is 40" wide, triple-hung, two-light sash. The glass is in a simple decorative geometric pattern. In the apex of each lancet, there is a palmette; in the uppermost extra light between the two lancets, a four-pointed flower. The coloring of the windows alternates: one contains yellow panes with purple borders and dividing squares; the next contains panes with light green borders and dividing squares. The hues vary somewhat. The windows on the north and south walls of the stairway are of the same design. Those on the east wall are similar to the main grouping of windows at the east end of the sanctuary. Here a large central window is composed of two double-lancet windows put together, with additional lights at the top to complete the form of

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one large, pointed window. The glass is in elongated hexagons of onyx-like jewel glass, with deep blue borders and a central nob of red glass in the onyx-like panes. The two windows flanking the large central one have similar glass, with green nobbs rather than red. The robing rooms have two windows each. One is a stained-glass, double-hung, single-lancet window; the other, a clear glass one-over-one sash window with a low Tudor arch.

The balcony is supported by two turned wooden columns and ten slender cast-iron columns, 7-1/2' tall. The two wooden columns are located at the junction of the rear balcony with the side balconies. Four of the cast-iron columns are located at each side and two at the rear by the center aisle. The cast-iron columns are fluted, and have palm capitals and simple square feet. All the columns are stained dark brown and grained.

A third turned wooden column with a wooden console supports the rear edge of the balcony. This column is located at the rear of the balcony, in the upper vestibule, between the two double lancets of the main east window. The outer face of the balcony railing is decorated with applique Gothic arches, which are stained and grained. Laid over vertical boarding, these were perhaps added later.

The hardwood pews are themselves a decorative feature. Relatively simple, the arm and back of each are treated at the aisle ends as one bow-shaped curve, with a bulls-eye volute at each end. Below the arm is a single lancet panel in relief. The arm, lancet, and top of the pew-back are a darker wood than the rest.

Windows throughout the building are framed in a simple molding, 4" wide.

In the choir area the (modern) communion rail around the dais is composed of simple turned balusters; the dais itself is faced with round arch paneling. The organ pipes against the west wall of the choir are sham. (The organ is electric.) Above the arched opening to the choir area, a heavy molding course projects at the spring along the wall, north and south about 1-1/2" and terminates in a rosette block. The turned wooden pulpit appears to be original. The two simple Renaissance revival style chairs date from the late 19th century.

In the lecture room below, the nine cast-iron columns have foliate caps, fluting, and molded bases on 8" plinth blocks.

7. Hardware: Almost no old hardware remains. There is a metal pull with an embossed fleur-de-lis pattern on the small pass-through door in the kitchen; the two south doors of

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the upper vestibule have original embossed metal pulls. Throughout the building there are a number of white porcelain knobs.

8. Lighting: Modern. A gas cock on a pipe in the furnace room is the only old lighting fixture that remains. Hexagonal light fixtures in Gothic pattern hang in the sanctuary. Under the balcony there are quarter-sphere etched glass lights with a stylized grape-branch band. There are some early 20th-century light switches, consisting of a single knurled knob.
9. Heating: Modern steam heat.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The church is on the west side of 29th Street and faces east. It is about 12 feet from the bluestone curb and about 60' north of Dumbarton Avenue. There are houses on either side; the house on the south is separated from the church by an alleyway about 4' wide; the one on the north, by a double alleyway about 7' wide.
2. Enclosures: On the east sidewalk there is a wooden gate to each side alleyway. On the rear of the church property is a 6' stockade fence.
3. Outbuildings: A wooden shed for fuel tanks is located near the west end of the building on the north side.
4. Walks: The church abuts a common bond brick public walk on the east. To the south and north are concrete walks 4' wide and 3-1/2' wide, respectively.
5. Landscaping: There are two trees near the curb on the east side.

Prepared by Daniel D. Reiff
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Commission of Fine Arts
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1969 during a project to record 14 structures and a group of 16 items of "street furniture" in the Georgetown section of Washington, D. C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 10, Georgetown Architecture: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia.

The project was under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts. The recording team was composed of Miss Ellen J. Schwartz and Mr. Daniel D. Reiff, Architectural Historians, and Mr. William P. Thompson, Architect. The photographs were made by photographers J. Alexander and Jack E. Boucher under contract to the Commission.

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